

# The Aspect of Language in the Period of Japanese Enlightenment

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In this paper I want to elucidate the characteristics of the language in the period of enlightenment in the Meiji Era.

First of all, the situations under which “Bunmeikaika”, “Bunmei”, “Bunka”, “Kaika”, “Kaimei” were used were examined, all of which are the key words to make this period clear, by going over the documents from the later Tokugawa regime to the 10th year of Meiji.

Next, I investigated the expression used by Fukuzawa Yukichi, who was among the first in enlightening people. By discussing his writings, I intended to examine his way of enlightenment from the viewpoint of language. Here *Seiyojijyo* (1866-1870) which had been very popular in those days is taken up to be examined. The following are the items that were examined.

1. The background that produced the Fukuzawa style
2. Devices in translation
3. Style and vocabulary (especially vocabulary of Chinese)

Through this investigation, I learned how Fukuzawa, who was eager to enlighten the people, was careful in the choice of his style and vocabulary.